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UAA Mat-Su Home of the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

Mat-Su Monitor

FALL 2022 FREE VOLUME 46 NUMBER 1

Fighting Winter Darkness

By Rachael Goodall

Now that fall has arrived in Alaska we will begin to see less sunlight. Scientists have named the effects that the darkness has on us Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). This affects everyone to some degree. Yes, we may not even realize the symptoms, but they are a type of depression. However, a kind of light box has been invented that may cause a chemical change in the brain that lifts your mood and eases the symptoms of SAD. Placing the light box in your kitchen or living room, allowing yourself to sit within distance of the light, can be very helpful. You can purchase a quality SAD light on Amazon.com or your favorite place to shop. They are $20 or more, depending on the size. Making sure you get outside daily, eat a healthy diet, and meet up with friends also helps fight SAD. Stay safe and have a great fall semester.

Information gathered from https://www.mayoclinic.org

Student Designs Herself Free Tuition

By Rachael Maher, Web/Digital Media Specialist

Congratulations to Madeline Carey for winning the Mat-Su College 2022 sticker contest. In March, students were invited to design an Alaska State Fair sticker that would be given away at the Mat-Su College booth at the fair. Madeline submitted a hand drawn image that creatively combined the college logo with a dragon flying across the Northern Lights. The design was also featured on this year's college T-Shirt and marketing used at the state fair.

Several students, from a variety of programs, entered the contest and the decision for the winner was tough. The competition not only came with bragging rights but a

See **MADELINE** *page 1*

New Student Orientation Pays Off

By Mariana Weatherby, Academic Advisor

Congratulations to Emily Beiler for winning the UAA Academic Integrity Training Drawing. In August, students who attended New Student Orientation were invited to complete the training for a chance to win a 3 credit tuition waiver to Mat-Su College for spring 2023.

Emily's name was selected randomly proving that it pays to participate in challenges as well as attend New Student Orientation!

I asked her if New Student Orientation helped? She said yes, "she got a feel for the school and felt more confident the first day of classes and she got to know a few faculty."

I then asked her why she chose to attend

See **EMILY** *page 2*

Upcoming Events

October 28: MSC Gay Straight Alliance Halloween Bash. 3-6 PM, MSC Theater.

October 31: Campus Walk: Indoor Tour Journey event. 12 PM, meet at the Director's office.

October 31: Halloween event for MSC students, employees, and families. 4-6 PM, campus-wide.

October 31: Spring 2023 schedule available.

November 4: Withdrawal deadline.

November 14-18: Thank Someone Today! Journey event. 8 AM-5 PM, FSM lobby.

November 14: Spring 2023 registration begins for seniors.

November 15: Spring 2023 registration begins for juniors.

November 16: Spring 2023 registration begins for sophomores.

November 17: Spring 2023 registration begins for freshman.

November 21: Spring 2023 registration begins for incoming students.

November 28: Spring 2023 registration open to all.

December 12-15: Therapy dogs on campus. 10 AM-3 PM, FSM lobby.

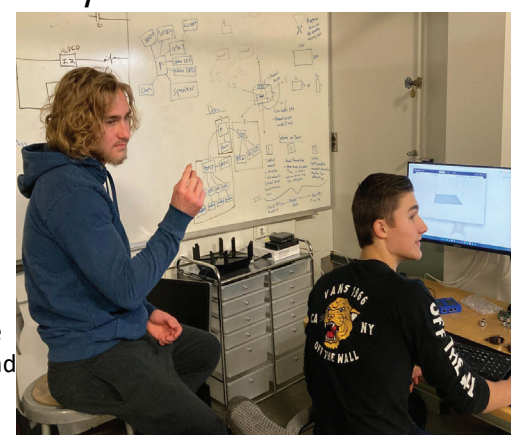
Robotics– A "Smorgasbord" of Possibility

By Elliana Overstreet

What began as an effort to better the experience of Mat-Su campus enrollment has become a club full of new ideas.

Dr. Dan Nichols, a physicist and MSC professor, began the club in 2021 with the intention of "enhancing enrollment at Mat-Su College." Started in what used to be a storage room in the HVAC shop, the club consisted of a few laptops and spare parts. Now, the club is well-supplied, teeming with energy, and planning new projects every practice.

While the club is small, its goals aren't. The club's members have varying subjects of interest, making for a diverse mixture of projects. However, the motivating force behind the club isn't just the members. Dr. Nichols



Reed Naspinsky and Gatlin Nelson working on Robotics.

See **ROBOTICS** *page 8*

Club meeting times

Arctic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team Club: Fridays 4:00 - 5:00pm

Gay Straight Alliance Club: Tuesdays 3:00 SNOD 118

Math Club: Thursday 4:30 FSM 205.

Mat-Su Monitor: Wednesday, 2:00 - 3:00 in FSM 107

Nihongo Tadoku Club: Fridays 4:00 - 5:00 PM in FSM 105 until November 18.

Robotics Club: Mon & Wed 11:15-1:00pm in JKB 120

Student Government Council: Wednesdays, 12:15PM – 1:00 PM FSM 107

Check https://matsu.alaska.edu/calendar/ for updates.

2022 MARKETING PHOTOSHOOT

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, Mat-Su College conducted a photoshoot to update and refresh their local advertising. Ads placed all over the Valley are crucial to build Mat-Su campus's student

See **PHOTOSHOOT** *page 11*

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You'll Never Believe It

By Kaia Richardson

Most of you don't know this, but I recently started a new job as a student worker at Mat-Su College's Student Services Department. As I begin to settle into my new position, I am in awe of the efficiency at which the senior workers handle and solve arising issues. Each of my supervisors and coworkers have little tips and tricks up their sleeves that have been perfected over their numerous years as Student Services' front line of defense. There are so many minute details to remember that make a world of difference when applied.

As I began to understand how long several of my coworkers/supervisors have worked at Mat-Su College, I began to wonder about the many fantastic stories and experiences that each would have to tell. Although Mat-Su College is generally a peaceful and collected institution, there have been some extraordinary events that have taken place here that the faculty have managed.

I asked two of my supervisors in particular about the craziest, strangest stories and experiences that have happened to them since they began to work at Mat-Su College. They began to reminisce about some very amusing tales. As they spoke, they would mention other staff and faculty members who have also worked here for a long time and would probably have some awesome stories to tell as well. Eventually, a sheet of paper was pulled out and the list of people to talk to rapidly filled the page.

See **COLLEGE STORIES** *page 9*

"Something to call their own."

Project: Backpack 2022!

By Jana Engle

When Mat-Su College Human Services Practicum II students heard Professor Jana Engle announce an opportunity to help the community, students did not hesitate to accept the challenge. A small, but mighty class, students Marcia Harrison, Megan Johnson, and Yadira Ramirez-Ruiz formulated a plan to work with Professor Engle to apply for the Mat-Su College Service-Learning grant to create "Project: Backpack 2022!"

Students were finally able to meet in-person on campus for this project! A welcome change after COVID restrictions for the past 2 years. 100 fun-colored backpacks have been prepared for a variety of age groups - infants to teens.

Completing practicums at various Human Service agencies in the community, students became passionately aware of the needs of Mat-Su's children and teens struggling with homelessness, in situations of crisis and transition, placed in foster care, and those in need. They observed children and teens who were rushed from their homes with only the clothes they had on. If they had belongings, most carried them in a trash bag. Students wished to give these children and teens dignity with a gift of care-filled backpacks. A local resource list with contact information for agencies that help youth and families will be tucked into the pocket of each backpack.

The Mat-Su College Service-Learning grant was awarded in the amount of $2000. This paid for 100 backpacks filled with age-appropriate treasures, such as fleece blankets, hygiene items, stuffed animals, pop-its, fidget toys, art supplies, books, earbuds, socks, baby care items, and more. Students were given tooth brushes & paste, and floss from a local dentist, items for teens and children's books from local churches, and MEA contributed lanyards and first aid kits. Target continues to work on contributing a gift certificate to purchase items for the backpacks.

MEA donated First Aid Kits and lanyards! Mann Family Dental provided tooth brushes, paste & floss. Local churches donated books, socks, undies and hygiene items.

Backpacks will soon be disbursed to various agencies and schools in the Mat-Su community. Human Services Practicum II students express their sincere gratitude to the Mat-Su College for the Service-Learning grant and to community donors for helping "put a smile on a child's face by giving them a backpack full of things – something to call their own!"

This is Life

Laughing with a sister in the middle of the night
Midnight highways and mesmerizing lights
Crazy dancing with your nana to a hard rock song
Boring moments waiting for far too long
One-sided talks to a frozen grave
The need to leave when you need to stay
Funny debates with your eldest brother
Regretful confessions to a hurting mother
Youtube quotes that make a whole conversation
Proud displays of your newest creations
This is Life.

Joke remarks with casual friends
The few core groups on which you depend
A genuine laugh after a painful cry
The fight to get up when you want to die
Your mother's hands running gently through your hair
That comfortable feeling when you're going nowhere
Being extra hands when your dad needs some
The thoughtful moments when you truly feel loved
Waking in a tent when the sun comes up
Curling up in emptiness when there is no one
This is Life.

Watching in grief for your brother to die
Glimpses of your mother's attempt to secretly cry
Jokes passed on with a look across the room
You and your new friends forming a group
Seeing stark pain in your nana's eyes
Harsh accusations that you can't deny
Stargazing late in a crisp winter's night
A door slam marking the end of a fight
The freedom felt driving in the summer sunlight
Silent tears falling in the darkest of nights
This is Life.

- Jesha

Madeline *continued from page 1*

3-credit tuition waiver to be used at Mat-Su College. Students were encouraged by the chance to win a tuition waiver and some felt the prize was highly motivating. Madeline used her tuition waiver for a business class over the summer, moving her one class closer to her degree.

The Alaska State Fair sticker contest was a success and is expected to turn into a yearly event. To add to the longevity of the design, the contest will likely change from a fair sticker to a general college sticker for year-round use. Stickers and T-shirts with Madeline's design are currently being distributed as prizes around campus. Keep your eye out for the winning design and for your chance to win Mat-Su College swag.

Emily *continued from page 1*

Mat-Su College? She said "I had heard that Mat-Su College is a good place to start. It is nearby and liked the option of not having to drive into Anchorage. "

We appreciate Emily and all of the students that participated in New Student Orientation. Look for your opportunity to participate in other Mat-Su College events.

The Mat-Su Monitor Team

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SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to uaa_msc@alaska.edu or at https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

DISCLAIMER

The *Mat-Su Monitor* is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The *Monitor* aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The *Monitor* seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the *Monitor*'s weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the *Monitor* can be found at *https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml.*

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the *Monitor* contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the *Monitor* article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

A FEW WORDS FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

By Aiden Freeman and Joe Pavia-Jones

Aiden Freeman

My time as president of the Matanuska Susitna College's student government was short lived, but was nonetheless an experience I greatly enjoyed and learned a lot from. I am a student from the Mat-Su middle college, so my previous experiences that I thought would make me a good fit were mostly at the high school level. While I quickly found out that a lot more goes into this student government than the high school ones I had been exposed to, the people available on campus were kind, welcoming, and patient with me. There were times I had to step out of my comfort zone and do things I didn't know how to do, but there seemed to be an endless amount of support from those around me and involved, and this really helped push me to continue to do what was required of me as president. I like to think of myself as a social person, and being president allowed me to more easily find excuses to talk with new people and form connections. People would stop by the student government office for help, advice, guidance, and simply just to talk and hangout. One big obstacle I ran into was figuring out what to do for the campus. Without students letting student government know what they want to see on campus or what they'd like to see from student government, we didn't have a lot to go off of. Many students were online, and it was difficult to find ways to get the attention of students with covid-19 restrictions being in play. There was not a lot for us to do, but my involvement also provided me many opportunities to improve on my people skills, something I value very much. When I was given the keys to the student government room, the first thing I realized was that it needed cleaned. Other students stopped by and helped get it better organized than it was. I interviewed a couple students, and eventually decided on who I wanted to be my vice president. I later got a few friends of mine to come on as senators, and those senators were the ones that came up with the idea for the main thing we were able to plan during my time. We had joked about doing a Shrek scavenger hunt while we were hanging out in the student government room, and I jokingly took notes. I looked back at the notes, and realized it was something we could do, and it would be fun. The scavenger hunt didn't actually happen until the next semester, but it was successful. Sometime later a secretary/treasurer for student government was hired, and she took a lot of work off the shoulders of the existing members and advisors. Being involved in student government made me look forward to being on campus.

Joe Pavia-Jones

I have had the opportunity to sever as the Vice-President the first semester and as the President the second. Being able to get to know people around campus and connecting has been amazing. I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience serving. I am looking forward to next year as we come back to on campus full time. We were able to get a few clubs going this year. As we get more people on campus I would like to see more clubs being created and people joining in. This year we have only a few people in and help run Student Government. Next year I want to fill all the positions including all ten senators spots. I love having more people participate because it makes it more fun and brings in new ideas. Knowing now what I have learned and how Government Council operates. This next year can only get better.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Student Government Council (SGC) of the Associated Students of Matanuska-Susitna College, University of Alaska Anchorage, is a student-run and administered body which provides a voice for student wants and needs and is aimed at providing a friendly and healthy environment for any and all students campus-wide.

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Be a Senator and represent the student body. Becoming a Student Government Officer is an excellent way to influence campus life -- and it looks great on a resume. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Current Mat-Su College Committees open to the student body:

- Board of Elections
- Rules Committee
- Planning Committee

Or join one of the student clubs. Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax. Club Representatives act as the liaison between their clubs and Student Government. They keep the Council informed about club activities, and have a vote on matters brought before the Council.

- Alaska Native Culture Club
- Arctic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Math Club
- Mat-Su Monitor
- Nihongo Tadoku Club
- Robotics Club
- Paramedic Association

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, start one of your own! Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

MSC SGC

Get involved with your STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Meetings Wednesdays
12:15- 1:00 FSM 107

Mat-Su College
2023 HIGH SCHOOL
ART PORTFOLIO COMPETITION

1st Place Award
Two Semester Tuition Scholarship

2nd Place Award
Six Credit Tuition Scholarship

3rd Place Award
Certificate of Achievement

Honorable Mention
Certificate of Achievement

ENTER TO WIN FREE TUITION!!!

Submission Deadline: April 21, 2023 at 11:59pm
Winners Announced: April 26, 2023
Art Show: April 30 - May 30, 2023

PICK UP AN ENTRY FORM FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

FOR RULES AND TO ENTER, SCAN HERE!!

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

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Claudia Jones

The Points of Light Inspiration Honor Roll was "created to celebrate acts of service, kindness and civic engagement by individuals who create change in communities around the world. It recognizes the people who take action, in both large and small ways, to improve the lives of others."

Congratulations to our own Claudia Jones, a professor of Spanish here on the Mat-Su campus, for her wonderful addition to the 2022 Points of Light Inspiration Honor Roll! This year, she also won two awards for her dedication to helping women advance their education: USA TODAY's Women of the Year honoree from Alaska, and the 2022 Alaska Mother of the Year.

We are so proud of her and her accomplishments.

To read more about Professor Jones and her amazing involvement on and off-campus, visit https://www.pointsoflight.org/inspiration-honor-roll/2022-2/?honoree-anchor=claudia-jones.

Poetry and Prejudice

By Elliana Overstreet

When we see the word "poetry," many of us think of learning about Romeo and Juliet in English class, trying not to fall asleep. Others think of one of the many forms of poetry we encounter every day: song lyrics. Music is a perfect example of a way that poetry is woven into all of our lives, whether we are listening to our favorite song or the new hit on the radio. While we all have experience with poetry, lyricists such as MSC's own Ellie Cullison hold it especially close.

While it serves as a career path for her, Cullison also uses poetry as a way to discuss her own life without any distractions or biases. "For me, poetry is a way of communication," she says. "I feel that in our society, in our world, communication can be lost. When we're speaking… the outfit we're wearing is already communicating something about us to that person. So they're thinking about the outfit and not what we're saying, or the color of our skin and not what we're saying. And in poetry, there's no bias, it's just the words how they are… it's communicating, without any other judgment, what the heart is expressing… it's the purest form of communication." Poetry is not only a form of communication, but one that shows only the true meaning of the writer's words. Conversational speech is affected by surroundings, the person being spoken to, and even appearance; poetry takes away all of these factors to give a clear way to see through the writer's eyes. That's the goal of a lyricist: to express emotion or thought in the clearest way possible that will be meaningful to everyone. But, as Cullison reveals, it's not just a split-second thought that is written down; analysis and revision makes poetry an even more accurate form of expression. "Poetry, in a sense, is just organized or unorganized thought, because you sit down and you think about it," she explains. "It's not just whatever your brain is sputtering out. You're writing it down, revising it, going over it, and perfecting it. It's like the perfect, original expression."

While lyrical poetry is a way to connect with others, it's also used as a way to disconnect with the chaos of the world, according to Cullison. "It's been an escape for me forever. I've always been an introvert, I've never really liked to expose myself, but with songwriting and poetry, it's different," she admits. "It's an art form. It's how I express myself, and I'm comfortable sharing that with the world because they're judging the song, they're not judging me." While many people are critical of poetry itself, they're rarely judgmental of the poets who create it, and Cullison takes advantage of this when writing her lyrics. "Poetry can't judge me… I can create it, and it's my own, like it should be for everyone else," she says.

Another common debate surrounding poetry is its practicality. Why do poets use metaphors and intricate structure to explain something rather than just saying it directly? Why do they complicate it so much? The answer to both of these questions is the same: we, as people, are complicated. We don't think or say anything individually from anything else; every thought we have and every word we say is intricately connected. Cullison, when asked whether or not poetry is practical, sums it up well: "Of course poetry is practical," she says, "because every emotion is practical, and poetry is based on emotion." That's what poetry does: it doesn't just express emotion, but also the writer's reasoning and context so that the reader can clearly understand the piece and the reality attached to it. However, the perspective offered within poetry isn't backed by the societal standpoints we usually consider, like economic standards or political parties. "In the world, there's politics, there's agendas, there's propaganda, there's societal norms that we're trying to counter and change and rewrite. A lot of constructs," Cullison comments. "And in a lot of this… there's usually two sides, one opposing the other. And I think our society gets lost a lot in that. And I think that art in general, whether it's painting, or music, or poetry, or dance, all of those things can exist without that. Whether you're Republican or Democratic, it's

See **POETRY** *page 11*

Valley Entertainment

By Damaris Hobbs

With the school routine begun and autumn upon us, our focus shifts from a hectic summer to sitting back and rewriting our schedules, and along with that comes the opportunity to consider a wonderful plethora of events the entire Valley can enjoy. Whether you enjoy popular bands, classical concerts, or theatrical productions, there is something for everyone.

In Anchorage, the Atwood Concert Hall is once again providing quality entertainment this season. To kick off November, the Suffers, a funk group, will be performing, followed by the famous Nutcracker featuring Eugene Ballet from November 25 to 27. Later, from December 6 to 10, Blue Man Group will also be performing. Additionally, Discover Theatre will be hosting the band Making Movies, "the sound track of America", on November 4 and Kanekoa, a Hawaiian musical group the following week.

If you are seeking to experience classical evenings of orchestral performances, make your way to Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, who will be performing with Capathia Jenkins and Ryan Shaw on October 29, or consider Mat-Su Orchestra's Veteran's Day Concert in November. Also, beautifully timeless pieces will be presented by Mat-Su Community Chorus in December, featuring joyful and festive songs. On December 4, Handel's Messiah, perhaps the world's most famous oratorio, will be performed by the community and hosted by the Wasilla Church of the Latter Day Saints, which you won't want to miss if you are a lover of the fine arts.

The following list of plays and musicals in the Mat-Su Valley you may want to take a look at:

- Little Shop of Horrors - Glenn Massay Theater, October 14 - November 5
- Babes in Toyland - Valley Performing Arts, November 25 – December 18
- Annie - Anchorage Community Theatre, December 2-18
- Little Magic Snowman - Anchorage Community Theatre, December 9-18
- Tarzan - Seims Theatre Productions and Triumvirate Theatre, dates TBA

Additional information about upcoming shows can be found on production companies' websites, as well as Facebook or Instagram. Hopefully you can provide room in your busy autumn and winter schedules to go out and enjoy what shows the amazing Mat-Su Valley has to offer!

Corrections

In the last issue (Summer 2022) we regrettably made several mistakes. The articles "Project: Backpack 2022!," "Introduction to the History of the Mat-Su Monitor," and "A Few Words from Student Government" were supposed to be split in half across different pages. We failed to print the second halves of each article.

We are reprinting "Project: Backback 2022" and "A Few Words from Student Government" in full in this issue. Readers who want to read the conclusion of the Monitor history should visit https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor/history.

TAKE THE JOURNEY

Hello all,

The Journey Program is a health, wellness, and personal growth program that provides and advertises a series of free activities and events available to all students, staff, faculty, and community members. Each month will offer an array of different discussion topics, presentations, and/or exercises for you to participate.

Stay tuned for more information on student participant drawings and stamp/sticker collections.

Welcome to your Mat-Su College educational journey. There are many rewarding experiences along the path to your ultimate goal, but there will also be challenges along the way. The Journey Program focuses on health and wellness activities to build up the Mat-Su College community and to help you rise to challenges, cope with stress, and stay healthy as you make your way through this exciting, but often hectic, time in your life.

Collect 5 stamps in your passport and bring it to Student Services to enter a drawing held at the end of September, October, and November.

Earn a stamp each time you...

- Participate in a Journey event
- Attend a FAFSA or Scholarship Workshop
- Use the math or writing tutoring services
- Join a library information session
- Meet with a career counselor in Student Services
- Meet with your advisor to plan for next semester
- Attend a Student Government meeting . We look forward to seeing students, faculty staff there! Come and get your Journey Passport Stamp!

Be sure to ask about your stamp at each Journey event, stamps will not be given retroactively for in person events. Events held over Zoom will have a 7day grace period for getting a stamp. Zoom event stamps are available at Student Services.

Campus Walk: Indoor Tour

Date: October 31
Time: 12 p.m.
Location: Mat-Su Campus

Description: Join Journey as we glean from our campus history and take an indoor stroll through campus with Dr. Talis Colberg, Mat-Su College Director. Meet outside the Director's Office.

Gratitude Week: Thank someone today!

Date: November 14-18
Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: FSM Lobby

Description: According to research on the psychology of gratitude, led by Robert Emmons, expressing your thanks can improve your overall sense of well-being. As we approach the Thanksgiving season, take a moment and identify what you are thankful for. Write a thank you note to someone who has positively impacted your academic journey or your life. Address the envelope with their name and mailing address. Place it in our mailbox in front of Student Services during gratitude week and we will add the postage and mail it for you. If it is someone in the MSC campus community (advisor, staff, or faculty) write their name and we will make sure they receive it.

If you or someone you know is homeless or at risk of being homeless, we can help!

We serve clients age 14-25 from 8am to 5:30pm Monday-Friday and 10am to 3:30pm Saturday. We provide all of the following services:

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Clothing
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You are always welcome here!

Clothesline Art Project "draws" attention to domestic violence statistics

By Coleman Buckley

The Clothesline Art Project—it's practically a tradition by now. Come October, Mat-Su College students decorate bright T-shirts with glitter, markers, and paint. These shirts share the messages of Domestic Violence Awareness Month: that domestic violence is never okay, that it's all too common, and that it's up to us to stop it.

The event is called the Clothesline Art Project because the finished shirts went on display on Snodgrass Bridge. Shirts from past Clothesline Art Projects joined those from this year's group, creating a display that gets more impactful the further you walk through it.

The event was put on by Alaska Family Services with help from Mat-Su College staff as part of the Journey program that "focuses on health and wellness activities to build up the Mat-Su College community." The project uses domestic violence statistics from https://ncadv.org/statistics. If you are experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault, you can get help at the Alaska Family Services website or by calling their 24-hour hotline at 907-746-8026.

Health Fair Returns to Campus

By Coleman Buckley

An early sign that fall 2022 was shaping up to be the first normal semester in almost 3 years: the return of what had been the campus's annual health fair. Held on September 15, the health fair was a joint effort of Mat-Su College and Alaska Health Fair Inc. Students and members of the community got affordable health screenings and a chance to talk to local health care providers. Mat-Su College students even offered educational demonstrations that drew on their classroom learning.

UAA/Mat-Su College
Spring 2023 Priority Registration

October 31	Schedule Viewable at UAOnline
November 14	Seniors (90+ credits)
November 15	Juniors (60-89 credits)
November 16	Sophomores (30-59 credits)
November 17	Freshman (0-29 credits)
November 21	Incoming Students with Pending Admission Applications
November 28	Open Registration

View the Schedule or Register at alaska.edu/UAOnline

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UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination

Additional Help available in the Learning Center:

- Rosetta Stone language software
- Computer stations
- Textbooks, videos and other resources

Elizabeth J Fallon Learning Center

OLB 121 — 745-9772

https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/

WRITING TUTORS

Azlynn Brandenburg

Mon. & Tues. 11:00 - 4:00

Wednesday 2:30 - 7:30

Thurs. & Fri. 11:00- 4:00

Dr. Vivian Wagner

Monday 2:30 - 7:30

Wednesday 11:00- 4:00

MATH TUTORS

Paul LaFrance

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 11:00 - 4:00

Tues. & Wed. 2:30 - 7:30

Gerrit Verbeek

Tuesday: 12:00 - 4:00

Tutors available in JKB 107 to December 16. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.

Online tutoring options

- **tutor.com/Live Home Work Help**: the Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Help service to all Alaska residents. Free, online tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM to help with many subjects. Visit http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework
- **Khan Academy**: Khan Academy has free explanatory videos on math, science, economics, history, and more. https://www.khanacademy.org/
- **Purdue OWL:** Purdue's Online Writing lab has sample papers and guides to APA and MLA styles. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/

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Microsoft Office, for Free

By Art Corvelay

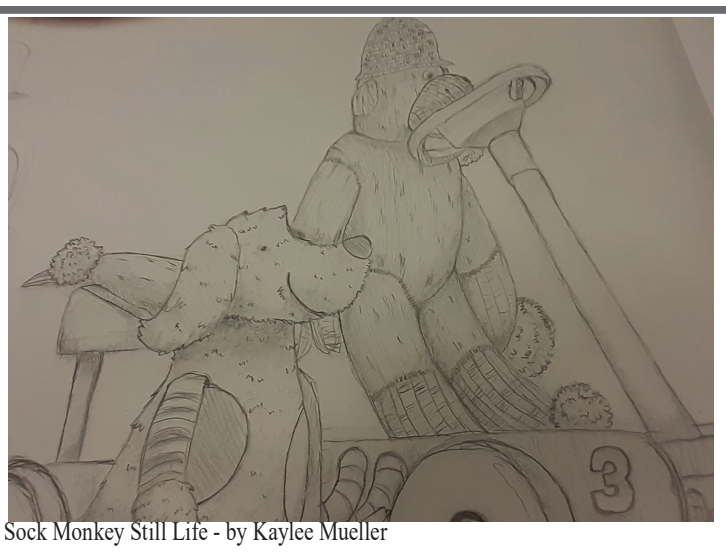
As a student affiliated with a UAA campus, you have free access to Microsoft's Office 365 website.

Office 365 offers browser-based versions of some the popular Office programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These lack a few features found in their desktop counterparts, but make up for that by saving your files to "the cloud" and by allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit the same document.

Better still, Office 365 users have the option to install the full 2016 versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Simply sign into Office 365 and click the "Install Now" button.

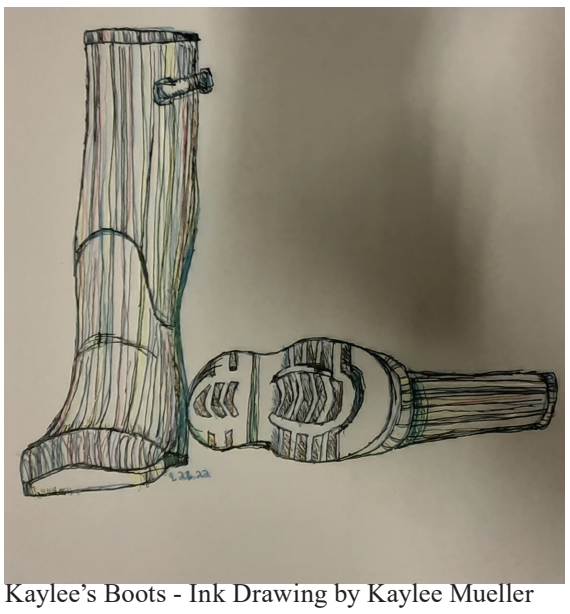
You can access Office 365 by visiting https://portal.office.com and signing in with your UA username followed by @alaska.edu.

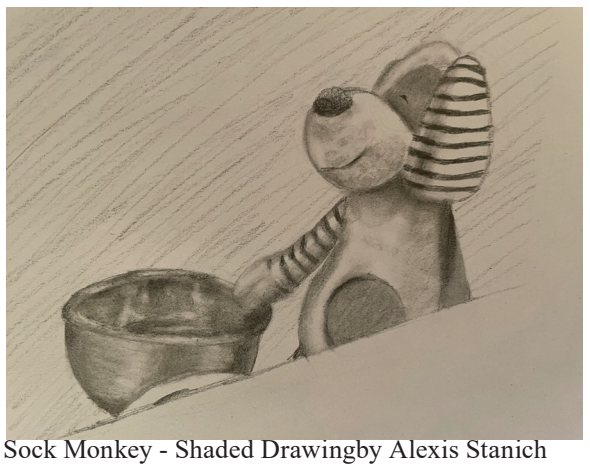
Students who want a free, no-strings-attached office suite that will be available long past their graduation should look at LibreOffice (https://www.libreoffice.org/).


Sock Monkey Still Life - by Kaylee Mueller

Monica's Boots - Ink Drawing by Monica Segni

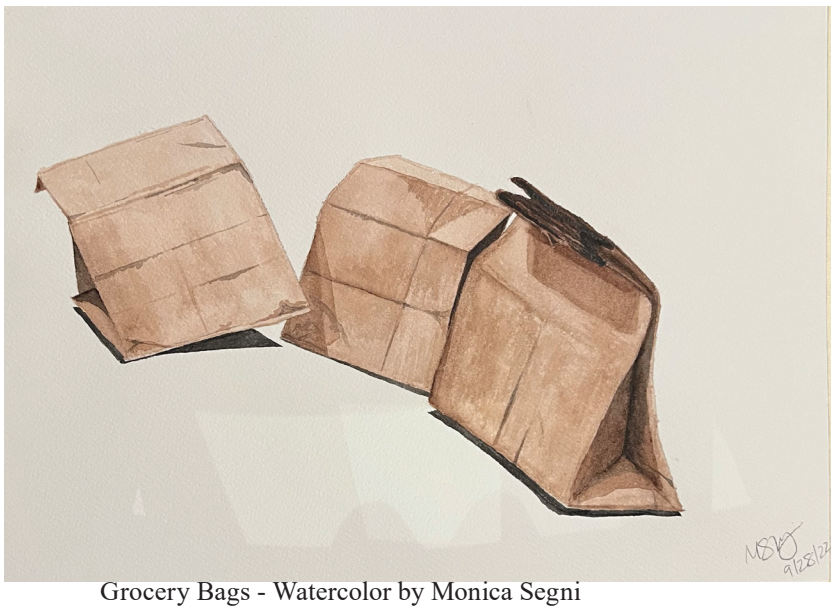
Plaster Cast Drawing - Sarah Ahkivian


Kaylee's Boots - Ink Drawing by Kaylee Mueller

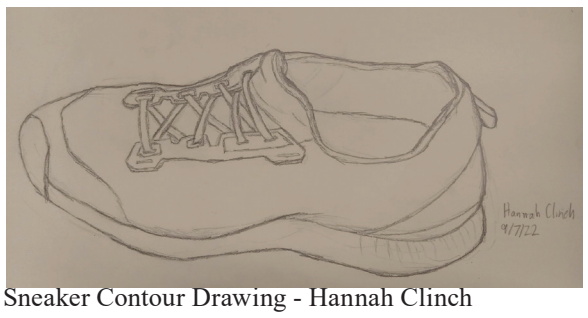

Sock Monkey - Shaded Drawingby Alexis Stanich

Plaster Cast Shaded Drawing by Nae Bolles

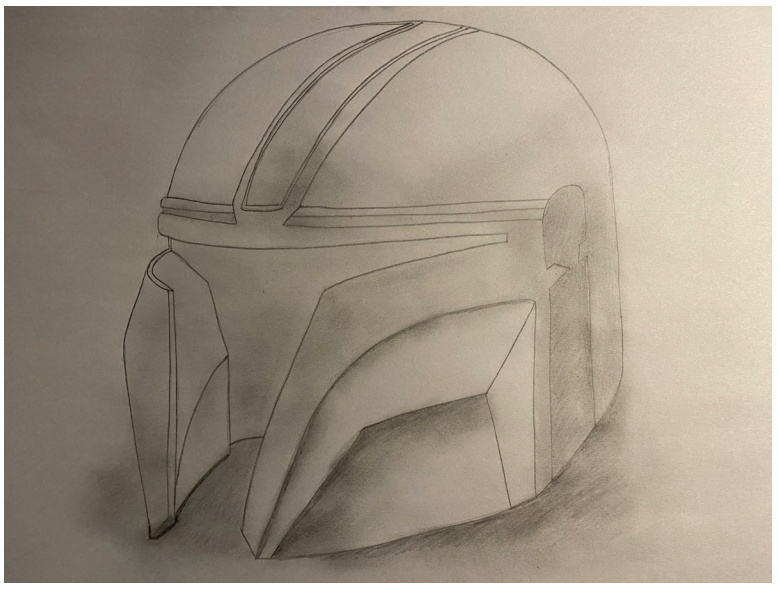
Shaded Still Life by Damien


Grocery Bags - Watercolor by Monica Segni

Sock Monkey - contour Drawing by Damien



Sneaker Contour Drawing - Hannah Clinch


Helmet - Value Drawing by Tyler Johnson

Robotics *continued from page 1*

himself was a technical hobbyist long before the idea for the club was even formed. "In the '90's, I built one of the first self-cleaning cat litter boxes and entered it in a competition in Philadelphia," he

told us. "Soon word got around that I could build stuff, so people would ask me to build this or that." Now, Dr. Nichols is just as enthusiastic about the club's varying projects as his students are.

The club doesn't just focus on basic mechanics. Between building and programming drones, the construction of a go-cart, and a lab full of curiosity, there's always something new. "We recently got a bunch of stuff to build a go-cart," Reid, a member since last year, told us. "We have an engine, so we can build the frame and add some fun robotics stuff to it: make it self-driving, or add some biometrics so that only certain faces can drive it." The go-cart isn't their only project in progress. "I like the drones, mostly," says Jake, a member of the club since this August. "Building them is fun, but flying them is by far my favorite part. I love flying them and adding different things, like the camera." These varying projects guarantee that there's always something new to work on or learn within the club.

This is especially true because only one of the current members is an engineering major; others are MSMCS or MSC students exploring the uses and possibilities of tech. But this hasn't been a hitch in their progress in the slightest. On the contrary: according to Dr. Nichols, the members are extraordinarily bright. "These guys are so smart," he says. "I think people are intimidated by that. If you don't know anything about it, that's okay. We just happen to have guys who know a lot." Nichols encourages those who enjoy engineering, or any of the projects that robotics entails, to get involved no matter their skill level.

In fact, students are encouraged to develop and create whatever they enjoy. "A lot of robotics clubs are about joining the US First robotics competition, with a set project and a set goal," Dr. Nichols explains. "That's not this club. Our club is, hey, you like rockets? Here's some rocketry stuff. Hey, you want to 3D print? Here's the printer. You like go-carts? Here's some parts. It's a smorgasbord." While robots in the US First program are made to work individually and can be close to one thousand dollars each, the one being crafted by the MSC club is meant to withstand hits from others of its kind and is, in its entirety, only about four hundred dollars to build.

While the club is financially savvy, the expense of robotics equipment is still a heavy toll. The MSC club was the beneficiary of two TVEP grants during the last school year, both used to purchase equipment for the club. "I was going to apply for $20,000 this spring," Nichols says enthusiastically, "but Gatlin asked me, "can you make it 30?" And then we got 30!" The club plans to continue applying for grants to support their

endeavors, which include a new robot competition with local high schools. While many robot competitions are focused around logical thinking and avoiding conflict, this is just the opposite: bolted and metal-plated combat. The robot "fights" are scheduled for May 20th in the theater. More details to come, so stay tuned!

ROBOTICS CLUB

Meeting days: Mondays and Wednesdays
Time: 11:15 am - 1:00pm
Room: JKB 120.

Monitor

MEETING TIMES
Wednesdays
2:00-3:00
FSM 107

Looking For
- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

Now taking submissions: Next deadline for entries: November 5.

Math Club

To provide students with additional mathematical resources and to promote the study of mathematics
MEETINGS:
Thursdays 4:30 FSM 205

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Math Club is pleased to announce that we will be hosting this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Starting October 31st, there will be several boxes placed across campus. Anyone willing to donate non-perishable Thanksgiving foods can place them there. We would appreciate if donated foods are easy to make and long lasting, such as canned cranberry sauce, canned yams, canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans, etc.), instant mashed potatoes, boxed stuffing, cornbread box mix, gravy packets, apple cider packets, as well as anything else you can think of. Donations will be distributed to local food banks. On behalf of the recipients, thank you for your kindness!

Alaska Native Cultures Club

Meetings TBA. e-mail us at MatSuANCC@gmail.com

The Alaska Native Cultures Club is here to provide Alaska Native students a group-based avenue for camaraderie, facilitate leadership and a platform of common interests. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about Alaska Native cultures to join. MSC ANCC is open to all students, faculty, staff and community members. We work collaboratively (but not exclusively) with the Mat-Su Borough School District Indian and Alaska Native Education Program, Alaska Job Corps, Knik Tribal Council, and Chickaloon Village Traditional Council.

ARCTIC DRAGON VETERINARY EXPLORATION TEAM CLUB (ADVET)

For the care and lover of animals

Meetings - Every other Friday
Time 4:00 - 5:00 pm

The Veterinary club is here to provide opportunities to explore the world of animal facilities, zoos, rescues, animal related events and more. Although an interest in veterinary medicine is encouraged, anyone with a love of animals is invited to join.

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE CLUB

GSA is here to promote tolerance and acceptance throughout the school community and to provide a safe non-judgmental space as a support network for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and straight youth who share a common vision of social equality. This club may include movies with discussions, group lunches, activities, service projects on campus and in the community, and working with LGBTQIA groups like the Queens Guard.

Meetings Tuesday
Time 3:300 pm
Snod 118

日本語多読クラブ

NIHONGO TADOKU CLUB

Japanese Extensive Reading

There are many interpretations of themes and contents of books. All of them are correct. This book club will cultivate your imagination, inspire you to create your own world, and help you find yourself through books. If a book that you are reading now is not fun, then find books that make you enjoy reading. The book can be any such as manga, pictorial books, cook books, story books etc. Now, let's go on a journey to find the books you like!

FRIDAYS 4-5 FSM 105

College Stories *continued from page 1*

I went to talk to people, asking them to think up some of the craziest experiences and stories they ever witnessed and I got many fantastic stories back. Unfortunately, not all were able to be included; even so there are still so many that did get to be included.

I especially would like to give a shout out to Audrey Badger, Korry Dunham, Micah Muer, Mariana Weatherby, Dr. Iver Arnegard, Dr. Pete Praetorius, Dr. Rachel Graham, Elizabeth Childs, Maggie Boman, Dr. Harry Banks, and Ted Lang, as well as many others.

The Library Is Closed Today

Audrey Badger, Enrollment Rep Former Library Cataloging/Circ Technician

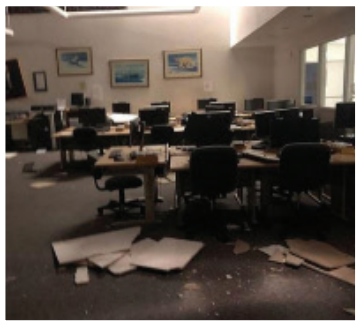
One of the first people I interviewed was my coworker/supervisor, the fabulous Audrey Badger, who was working in the Mat-Su College library during the 7.1 earthquake in 2018. She said she happened to be standing in the reference room when it started. She wasn't worried about it since earthquakes happen all the time.

When it started to shake harder and it didn't seem to be stopping, she told me,

"And.. I thought, "I think I'd better go get in a doorway"- 'cause the books were starting to edge over to [the end of] the shelf. So I'm standing in the doorway and these books behind me are… reference books… and they're hitting the ground so hard I can feel the air behind me moving."

The earthquake happened at 8:29 am and the library had just opened. Luckily, there was only one patron in the library, who ran down the stairs when it started shaking and grabbed onto one of the pillars of the library. Audrey told me,

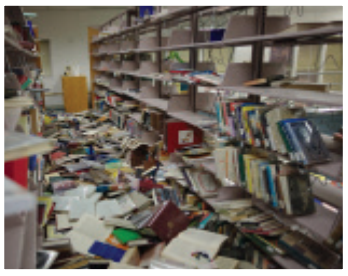
"...and I see the light behind him that was hanging up from the ceiling, fall and crash onto the stairs behind him and just explode."



The drop-down tiles that were hanging from the vaulted ceiling also were beginning to fall all around and exploding into dust. All the while, the hanging lights were swinging wildly back and forth.

Then the power went out.

"So there's 60,000 volumes above me upstairs that are hitting the floor, right? And we can still hear all this banging and crashing,



but- it was like 8:30 in the morning, but it was dark outside- so without the power it was really dark in there. And then! The [red] emergency lights came on, right? They were a kind of strobe. So you're seeing something going like: fall, fall, explode.

Fall, fall, explode.

And we were standing there, watching the world shake around us for a little bit and… when it quit, you know, I turned to the patron and I said, "You're going to have to leave. The library's closed today."

Overall, nobody was hurt in the library during the earthquake, though it did take several months to clean up and repair everything.

Primal Scream

Dr. Pete Praetorius, Associate Professor of Communication

I was introduced to Dr. Praetorious by Micah Muer, from the library, as he was walking down the hall. I asked him then if he knew of any strange, exciting, or crazy stories that have happened while he's worked here. His response was:

"It's a pretty mellow place. But I work in the evening shift when all the crazy people go home".

Despite being put on the spot, Dr. Pete responded admirably and thought of something almost immediately. His reply to my question was a short, but funny story.

"So we'd had a… guy here, who'd had some problems. And I hear this screaming… in the evening class. It was early- a little after seven or so. And… everyone in class is looking at each other and [saying] "What's that?" ... So I mention to this guy who's sitting over by the door, "[Will] you check that out?". So he goes out and- … I'd kinda figured it was this professor who was having a hard time- he comes back and he says,

"Yeah. He's practicing his primal scream."

Lucky Coincidence

Dr. Rachel Graham, Professor of Mathematics

If you have ever driven behind Snodgrass Hall, you would know there is a deep ravine just on the edge of the Snodgrass parking lot.

I had the privilege of speaking with Dr. Graham recently and I asked her if she had any stories to put in the Mat-Su Monitor. She brought up a story starring her friend, Bernadette, and involving the ravine near the college campus.

The story begins as Dr. Graham drove into work one morning to the parking lot behind Snodgrass Hall and noticed there was a lot of heavy duty equipment with flashing lights and a big tow truck around the ravine. Looking closer, she realized one of the college vans was at the bottom of the ravine. Dr. Graham told me about the experience.

"...they were pulling this [truck] out and there wasn't even really that much space between the trees. So I was very confused as to how this … minivan-sized vehicle was down all the way in the ravine."

She continued on her way and taught her class that morning. But after work… "So I taught my class and I went to the copy center and my friend who worked in the copy center at the time, I said something about this vehicle and she turned bright red and put her face in her hands. And she was like, "Yeah, that was me. And the [moral of the] story is that you should set the parking brake on the college vehicles because if you don't, they might roll and just hit between two trees and happen to go over the edge."

The story isn't over quite yet though. Dr. Graham told me about the crazy coincidence that happened two years later.

Her friend had moved to Kenai and was working there and loving it. Dr. Rachel was teaching her class two years later, when one of her students mentioned how scary the parking lot near the ravine was in the winter when it was icy. Dr. Graham had immediately thought of the incident with the college van and told the whole class the story of what happened.

And what do you know! Not 5 minutes after she finished the story and told everyone they would probably never meet her, Bernadette walked into the classroom! It was definitely a lucky coincidence that she stopped in on them on a visit from Kenai, intent on saying hello to Dr. Graham.

Thwarted Car Theft

Ted Lang, Physical Plant Crafts and Trades

We owe a lot to Physical Plant for keeping Mat-Su College running smoothly. They are the ones who are called when something is broken or isn't running smoothly- our very own superheroes behind the scenes. They are in charge of maintenance for the entire campus. Before a security guard had been assigned to Mat-Su by UAA, they had also been in charge of security. I interviewed Ted Lang (who is amazing by the way), and he'd had several stories ready by the time we actually got together to talk. As anticipated, there were some unbelievable tales.

When I was scheduling an interview with Ted, I noticed that he comes in a little later in the afternoon, whereas my classes are usually in the morning. This made meeting up a tiny bit more complicated, but in the end it was worth it. A lot of Mr. Lang's stories were about later in the day, when most everyone had left already. It's Physical Plant's job to close up the college and make sure nobody is hiding in the rest rooms or breaking in. One of the most exciting stories he told was about a bizarre attempted car theft.

"The craziest [story] I have was probably back in 2009. We didn't really have any security and we would walk around checking parking lots when we came on shift and just doing a general sweep of who's here and what's going on. Well, I had gotten here at 2:30 and I'm walking through FSM (Fred & Sara Machetanz Building) and I go up the stairwell and I look out the window - just looking out- and someone had just driven up. And [they] pulled up to a car and walked across the grass to another vehicle and looked in it. And they had their hands on the window, blocking the sun, trying to see what's in the car. And I thought "Oh, no." At first I thought " Okay, something's going on". And then, the kid - he was probably 14 or 15- started beating on the window trying to break it with a jacket wrapped around his hand. I said, "Oh." And at that point I ran down (I was on the second landing) and I ran out there and I said "HEY!". And he looks [over] and he is so scared. And his friend was in a truck- and he was actually in the passenger and he got out to beat the car window- and he runs back to the truck to hide… I'm like, "what is going on?".

So his friend tries to pull out and I said, "Don't leave! I have your information" and I'm holding onto the mirror. Well he pulls out and at the same time I'm trying to get my phone out to take pictures of the guy and I can't get my- at that time it was a flip phone- so I couldn't get it out. And he pulls away and he was just waiting right there- and I'm probably about 5 feet away from the car in .. front of it- and he's trying to pull out and I'm like, "Don't go anywhere. The cops are on their way. I have your information"

…The kid in the passenger's seat.. He's hiding now on the floorboard- just down. He's covering his face and his friend, driving, he doesn't know what to do, so he backs out even further, almost hits a car, then he starts going forward. And I'm like, "Okay. What should I do?". So I was thinking about jumping in the back of the truck- it was this little pickup truck- But I thought "No I can't".

We had these radios and I called my coworker to come out and he comes out of the mechanical room just as the kid is driving away. He's speeding through the parking lot. And my friend, Tim (my coworker) he comes out and I say, "Get his license plate!". And he copies off onto the radio so we got the license plate, but they took off.

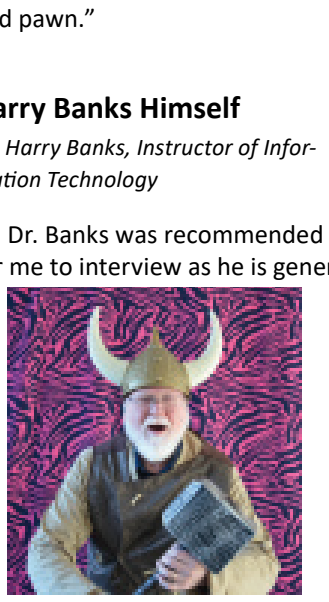
And then, about a week went by and I had been driving through Wasilla and I decided to go to Wasilla High, just to look around, and I saw the same truck right there and I called the Troopers and told them it was there. After that I'm not sure what happened.

But it was crazy… It just happened. I just happened to see a car pulling out, the guy getting out and attempting to break into a car. And I went over to the car. [There] was a brand new white snowboard in the car. I think they were looking for things to take and pawn."

Harry Banks Himself

Dr. Harry Banks, Instructor of Information Technology

Dr. Banks was recommended for me to interview as he is gener-



ally known as a witty fellow and might have some interesting tales to tell. So I contacted him and we got together for a hilarious and highly entertaining interview.

The first story he told me happened in 2008/2009, the first year he began his job as an instructor. Dr. Banks is an instructor of Information Technology. As he stated himself, it can be a dry subject and hard to focus on. He told me about how one unconventional teaching method of his came to be.

"So, that particular night we came in- we were a little behind schedule- and so I had a lab that was assigned for that evening. And as I walked into the class and the students were beginning to filter in, one of the gentlemen said "I'm nervous". I said, "Well why are you nervous?". He says "It's the first night of football season and we have class." And I say "Well, I can't send you home, 'cause we're behind schedule- we need to do the lab."

Somebody says, "But you got that big screen…". Somebody said, "You've got the internet…" I said "But we're behind. It's a lab. I need you to do the lab." They said, "But you got a big screen…" Somebody else said, "You got the internet…"

So I said, "Well, if I do this, I'll probably get fired. But if I get this up on the screen, you're going to have to order pizza."

They said, "We'll order pizza!"

So they ordered pizza, I got it up on the screen, and I handed out

See **MORE STORIES** *page 11*

Students had the opportunity to relax and de-stress with a little animal therapy during mid-term week.

Puppy Therapy Comes to Mat-Su Campus

Oxytocin. Oxytocin. Oxytocin. That was the word Alaska Assistance Dogs's Carole Shay was so eager to share with the students who gathered around her three therapy dogs. The dogs were here as part of a Journey event timed to coincide with the stressful midterm exams.

Oxytocin, as Carol pointed out, is a hormone closely associated with a sense of well-being and relaxation. Your body creates it when you do things like hug a friend or pet a dog. The students who crowded around to pet and cuddle the dogs may not have known the science behind it, but it's clear the dogs lifted their spirits.

Students will have another chance to see the dogs during finals, when Carole and the dogs will be back in the FSM lobby.

STRANGER THINGS

G	D	S	T	E	V	E	H	E	G	G	O	M	F	M
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S	Y	S	T	A	R	C	O	U	R	T	M	A	L	L

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

_ _ _ _

Photoshoot *continued from page 1*

body. “The pictures taken will be used in future promotional material for the university such as webpages, social media posts, and posters,” explains Student Services staff Nick McDermott, who facilitated and supervised the opportunity on September 12th. These photoshoots, many with this year’s Heather Dunn from Ambience Photography, normally happen every few years: “When they happen depends on a few things,” McDermott explains. “They will change with fads, seasons of the college, or changes in our departments, classes, or staff. It just depends on what’s happening on-campus.”

Students had the opportunity to model in a comfortable environment on campus, between the chemistry lab and the hallways they use to get to class every day. Students across multiple majors participated, even if they weren’t interested in modeling in itself. “I’m a freshman,” student Emily Beiler explains. “I thought it might be a good opportunity to meet some new people, so I can have friends around campus.” And Emily wasn’t alone– sixteen of our students were able and enthusiastic to participate. “Inviting students and faculty to be the subjects for the photoshoot, instead of paid models, allows the university to share a more accurate look at our campus and community,” McDermott comments. “It was great to work with such an outgoing and dynamic group of students for this shoot. They volunteered their time to support the university and truly embody the best Mat-Su College has to offer.” Thank you to those students who were able to participate, and keep an eye out for those new ads all over the Valley!

Poetry *continued from page 4*

not labeled on that piece of art, it’s just art. You can appreciate it and love it without judging it by those labels first. We get lost in the opinions of other people and their beliefs and whether they’re religious or not, or whether they make a certain amount of money each year or not, when really all of that stuff doesn’t matter. When you look at an art piece and appreciate it, it proves just that. That thing is beautiful, and it doesn’t have a yearly income. It doesn’t have a political belief. It doesn’t have a religious belief. It’s just art, and you can appreciate it, and it is beautiful, and it is the very proof that none of those things matter except for representing who you are.”

But does art, like poetry, really mirror reality or does it oppose it? Is poetry about something real or a fantasy developed in the writer’s head? Cullison has the answer to this, too. “Poetry is pure, raw expression. That can change on a day-to-day basis. I could wake up today and the sun is shining and I love it, and at the end of the day I’ll write a poem about how amazing my day was, and how could reality even be a thing? But then the next day… my parents get a divorce, and at the end of the day I’m asking “what the heck,” and I’m going to write a poem about depths and despair and how everything is unfair, and I’m going to mirror reality.” While her writing is rooted in reality, reality is malleable. It can look different from varying perspectives, hence the value of poetry.“I have songs myself that present reality,” Cullison continues, “and there are other ones that oppose it… there’s skeptics, there’s people who are skeptical and “negative” about life. If they’re writing about reality, they’re going to write that reality sucks. There’s others who will oppose reality, who will go in headstrong and hope for the best at the end of the day, with a glass half full. It just depends on the person.” Cullison’s interpretive mind renders her lyrics both meaningful and inspiring to those around her, whether they’re about a great day in the sunshine or her parents’ divorce during her freshman year of high school.

However, as Cullison explains, dark times in our lives are almost their own form of poetry. “When you go through something hard you find yourself struggling, or doubting yourself, or sometimes you lose trust in yourself, or stop raising your hand in your classes,” she explains. “I think those are times when poetry is resembled in the way you watch yourself change. During certain events, it’s like lyrics. Like the bridge of a song, when it changes up on you. Those are times when it seems like a poem almost… something bad happens, everything about you changes, just like the tone of a poem can completely change. It’s so unique and it’s so beautiful that we can notice all of it happening.” The beauty of tragedy is a common topic in poetry, but it’s difficult to capture without bordering on romanticizing these negative experiences. The balance between the underrepresented pain of change and romanticizing it is another reason why we write poetry in the first place, to show others that change can be both beautiful and painful.

Capturing this depth of emotion, the complexity of our individual characters, and the choices that make each of us who we are is why poetry is written. Poetry provides clarity through complexity because we are all complex, as are our thoughts and perspectives, and those who know how to read and write it can connect with others on a deeper level than they ever could otherwise. “Let’s say everyone knew how to write poetry in a successful way, so that everyone else was able to understand,” Cullison infers. “The world would be a better place.”

More Stories *continued from page 9*

the lab. I was thinking I was going to have zombies, right? No, No! They did the lab, they researched stuff outside of the lab, they dug in, they worked. And I’m thinking, “Is college supposed to be like this?”

The second story is how one

of his more famous quirks came to be: Flat Harry, a cardboard cutout of Dr. Banks in full wizard costume. “They were supposed to have fifth graders visiting the campus and they asked me to talk to these fifth graders about technology. So I thought of a couple things that might be interesting and I realized I had this stupid wizard outfit. So I thought, “Well. Maybe I’ll catch their attention with that.” So I let the fifth graders get in the room and, after they had all gotten in there (I had put on the wizard costume) I jumped into the room as the wizard and said, “I’m here to talk about technology!!”

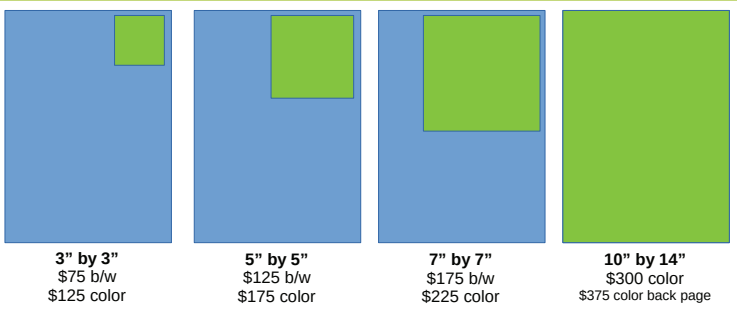
And the kids just kinda rolled their heads back, like, so? And I’m thinking, “Okay. Well. This is a big… something…” So somebody went around and took pictures of the kids and they looked just bored to death. So I went back- the event was over, but it was right [before] my CISCO course, the technology course- so some of my students were starting to form up in the halls. So I went back to the office and I took my outfit off and I walked back into class. And they said, “No. No. You gotta go back. You gotta go put it on.” These are my college students!

So I went back to my office, put on my wizard outfit, walked into the classroom. [I] started teaching just like we normally do. They took notes just like they normally do.

People are walking down the hall, like, “What’s going on in there?!” So that’s where Flat Harry came from. So then, what I did after that, when I realized that it had some play with the older people, when it comes time for graduation, I put on that outfit underneath my academic stuff. So I look official, proper for the ceremony. And then when it’s time to exit, I rip off the gown and I go out as a wizard (I put on my ‘lil pointy hat) and I go out as the wizard.

My daughter heard that I was

doing this wizard stuff and she got me this [staff]. So that’s part of the wizard outfit now. Then I get my picture taken with my students and all that stuff and that’s become my graduation shtick. Usually for my first year students, I wait ‘til Halloween and then I go into the classroom and teach in that for Halloween. But one year-about 2 or 3 years ago- I had to be absent at graduation and it [was] some of my very favorite students that were going to graduate. So that’s when I had Flat Harry made. So they could have their picture taken with Flat Harry. And that worked- except, I do have trouble getting respect… I’m sure you can’t imagine why. …One Halloween, I dressed up as this and the students got a hold of the picture and did the enhancements.”



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